

國立成功大學

出國報告書

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摘要

本篇由成大交通管理科學系四年級外籍生撰寫，主要內容含個人申請過程、交換相關事項及心得分享。除此之外，我也將分享一些有關在歐洲旅行方面的提示及注意事項。本人在交換學期間所修的課皆為商管類，希望能夠透過分享本人身為外籍生申請交換學生的親身經歷，幫助未來欲到此校交換學習的同學。

Abstract

This article was written by a senior-year student from the Department of Transportation and Communication Management Science. The purpose of this article is to share the application process, things that should be aware of, and some thoughts of mine on this experience. Besides, some tips on travels within Europe will be shared in this article, hope that this report could help all juniors who are interested in applying for an exchange opportunity in JKU or generally in Europe, especially to those who are applying as an international student in NCKU.

Table of Contents

Exchange Purpose	4
Preparation before Departure	5
Insurance	5
Visa Application.....	5
Dorm	5
Austrian National Railways Card	6
Preparation after Departure	6
Bank Account	6
SIM Card	6
Transportation in Linz	6
Course Selection	6
Travel Tips	7
Thoughts and Suggestions	9
Appendix	10

Exchange Purpose

I have always pictured myself laying on the grass on campus while reading a book during summer, however, when I got to NCKU, my imagination goes down in vain. The weather in Taiwan will never allow it and the study environment or atmosphere in Taiwan is extremely stressful which is in complete contrary. At that moment, I told myself that if I ever get an opportunity to study in any Western country, I would not hesitate to fight for it. At the end of my freshman year, I somehow overheard a few of my seniors discussing about the student exchange program and that was when I started researching on it and started preparing for the application.

Another reason I want to exchange is none other than to travel or to explore to different places. My dream is to travel around the world while I'm still able to, so during my exchange to Europe, I have travelled to many different cities and countries as planned.

Also, the reason why I chose to exchange in JKU is because I'm personally interested on business management, and while I was doing my research, JKU not only offers many courses related to it, but are also on par with digitalization which is getting relatively important among businesses nowadays.

Preparation before Departure

1. Insurance

As a foreigner in Taiwan, due to the complexity in applying for an insurance from the local insurance company, I did some researches and decided to purchase my Schengen Travel Insurance from “Europ Assistance S.A.”. The insurance costs about NT\$ 5,813 for 5-month period.

2. Visa Application

The visa to be applied for an exchange student staying up to 6 months in Austria would be Visa D. Foreigners are able to choose whether to apply through the embassy in Taiwan or in your home country, but because it's more convenient for me to apply in Taiwan, so I chose to apply by traveling to the embassy in Taipei. Applicants are required to make appointment through phone call and once the date has been confirmed, you'll just have to present yourself with the required documents. The application fee costs about 150 Euro and it has to be paid on the day when application is submitted.

3. Dorm (On-campus)

As an exchange student in JKU, we are fortunate enough to have many choices in terms of accommodation. The dorm that I chose was Julius-Raab-Heim. Most exchange students live in this dorm and it's located about 8-minute walk away from the tram station. It's about an 8-minute walk away from the main campus, less than 10-minute walk from 3 supermarkets, in which two are just opposite of each other, Hofer and Billa, while the other one is called Winkler. In Austria, Penny Markt offers the cheapest price among all supermarkets, whereas Hofer comes next, followed by Spar, Billa and Winkler.

4. Austrian National Railway (ÖBB)

You're recommended to apply for the ÖBB VorteilsCard Jugend if you're under 26 years old. It's a discount card that offers up to 50% off which only costs 19 Euro. It can be used when purchasing any train ticket within Austria and trust me, it is worth buying it. Do remember to purchase the card online prior to arrival, so you can use it once landed in Austria. Download the app beforehand and you can always make purchases through the app which is extremely convenient and sometimes will be cheaper than buying physical tickets.

Preparation after Departure

1. Bank Account

If you will be bringing certain amount of cash in hand, you are recommended to apply for a savings account in Sparkasse. It is free to open a savings account in the Sparkasse which is located on the campus. You will just have to prepare your passport and student card (if I remembered correctly). Also, ApplePay is extremely convenient to be used in Europe, you could simply connect your ATM card to ApplePay/phone's Wallet.

2. SIM Card

You are recommended to buy HOT (a telecommunication brand) from the supermarket, Hofer. It offers local network and if you need data roaming for other countries in Europe, there are a few selections that you can choose from.

3. Transportation in Linz

The main public transportations in Linz are trams and buses. The only two options. Do apply for Aktivpass once you've got there, it's a pass for residents in Linz that offers tickets at a discounted price. You could buy the monthly ticket at a cheaper price which is around 15.1 Euro.

4. Course Selection

The course selection process in JKU is slightly different from NCKU's and not to worry, tutorial will be given during the orientation. I majored in Business Management in JKU, they offer plenty courses in English and some of them ends before Christmas. I took the opportunity to apply for those courses, so that I could spend more time on travelling after the Christmas holiday.

Travel Tips

1. App / Website

Here are the apps or websites that I frequently used to book for my trips:

- Google Flights: fare comparison only for flights
- Skyscanner: fare comparison for flights and hotels
- Omio: fare comparison including flights, trains and buses (prefer this over skyscanner)

*****never book your tickets from skyscanner and omio or from any other third parties as they are usually more expensive, and some might not be trustworthy*****

- FlixBus: use it to book for bus once I find out that it's the cheapest / most convenient option (do consider the duration of the bus journey as it may be uncomfortable to sit for too long)
- Ryanair: usually the cheapest flight option, purchasing through app is cheaper, further details will be listed in the next section.
- ÖBB: Austria's railway app, very convenient once logged in, will be able to purchase train tickets under 3 minutes. The ticket will appear in the app once purchased, QR code will be provided and will be used during inspection.

2. Flight / Airlines

- Ryanair: the cheap airline I mostly prefer, the price range could be around 25 ~ 50+ Euro. Price includes only a small cabin bag that needs to be fit under the seat, whereas if you could add on by paying around 10-15 Euro, you would be entitled to priority boarding and could bring along 2 cabin bags. The base fare does not include check-in baggage. Do remember to purchase additional cabin bag at the time of booking in Ryanair's app instead of the website as it would be slightly cheaper. Also, another important tips to note is that when you've chosen the flight you want, you will be asked if you want to add on the baggage for the first time, you should choose "basic" first instead of adding it right away, once you've entered your personal information, you'll be asked once again, that's when you choose to add-on 2 cabin bags option, it will be a few euros cheaper.

*****when traveling with cheap airlines, do remember to check-in online within 24 hours before your flight to avoid processing fees, if you check-in at the counter, it will cost you 50 Euros!!!***

- EasyJet: another cheap airline option
- The airline owned by the country you're traveling to, etc. Air France, British Airways, and more! The fare is usually cheap if you book earlier, do check it out few months in advance.

3. Accommodation

- Agoda / Booking.com: frequently used to book for hostels. If you're traveling alone, hostels with shared room are the cheapest option you could get, whereas if you're traveling with your friends (3 or more people), hotels are good options too, it may sometimes be cheaper.
- Airbnb: Recommended if you're traveling with 5 or more friends.

Thoughts and Suggestions

After spending 5 months exchanging in Europe, I would definitely encourage everyone to do so if they ever have a chance to. I have been encouraging people around me, especially my juniors to apply for it.

In terms of exchanging in JKU, I would also recommend it if you don't mind living in a slow pace, quiet and small city. Although Linz is the third largest city in Austria, but it's still a relatively calm place and if I were to compare it to a city or county in Taiwan, I would say it's more like Ping Tung? In terms of convenience, most places can be commuted by trams or buses, but the campus is about 30-minutes tram away from the city centre, so it may be slightly time consuming. There's nothing much to do or entertainments available around campus, so if you are longing for bustling city life, JKU may not be suitable for you.

In overall, I liked my exchange experience and Linz was a good place, but if I ever get to choose again, I would go for a bigger city in Europe as I prefer a city life.

Europe is a good place to exchange if you aim to travel during your exchange period instead of communicating with local students and other exchange students.

Appendix



Oktoberfest in Munich



Swim & drink at Plechinger See
(a lake near the campus)



Countdown in London



Last trip in Denmark